

Mission Together

St Paul Liturgy



This liturgy following focuses on St Paul the Apostle. It can be used to mark the feasts of St Paul (January 25 and June 29) and / or used as part of your *Day of Many Colours* celebrations.

LITURGY PLAN

Setting the scene

Please refer to our guide 'How to Pray with Children' <https://missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/>

Entrance hymn or recorded music

Our suggestion: 'All Over the World' or 'Christ Be Our Light'.

Sign of the cross and lighting of the candle

Opening Prayer

Copy and paste and ask a pupil to read.

Children's introduction to the liturgy

Copy and paste and ask a pupil to read.

Bible reading

As an alternative to the scripture reading overleaf and **for an interactive interpretation and scripture exploration tasks, see Appendix 1.**

Prayers of intercession

Copy and paste the prayers of intercession and ask pupils to read.

Mission Together prayer

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music

Our suggestion: 'Take My Hands', 'Colours of Day', or 'Will You Come and Follow Me.'

Follow up activity

Sharing God's message of love – Appendix 2 & 3

Mission Together Prayer

May all children

In the world

Share love

Share friendship and live

In the peace of God's love

Now and forever. Amen.



Opening Prayer: Feast of St Paul

Dear Jesus, today we remember your courageous missionary, St Paul. Lord, you showed St Paul how to use his energy and talents for good. Show us how to do the same. So that guided by your Holy Spirit and encouraged by St Paul, we might share God's love with the world Amen.

Children's introduction

Today we celebrate the great missionary, St Paul. A missionary is someone who brings God's love to others. St Paul was special. Although he lived a long time before planes and cars he travelled far and wide, often making dangerous journeys, to tell people about Jesus and his teaching about forgiveness, love and fairness.

Some people didn't want to hear this message. This meant that St Paul was often in trouble. He was threatened with arrest and jailed three times! We are now going to hear a passage from the Bible about one of the times St Paul was imprisoned for telling people about Jesus. Listen carefully to what happened to Paul and his friend Silas.

Bible reading: Acts 16:16-40 adapted for children from NJRV

Paul and his friend, Silas, were preaching about Jesus in a town in Greece. One day they were seized by the crowd and dragged before the court. The men in charge ordered them to be whipped and thrown into prison. The jailer chained their feet tightly so that they could not move.

That night Paul and Silas were in their cell, praising God and singing hymns, when there was such a violent earthquake that the prison was shaken. Suddenly the prison doors flew open, and their chains came loose. The jailer woke up terrified. He thought Paul and Silas had escaped. But Paul shouted, 'Don't worry. We are still here!'

The jailer rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you, your family and your servants.'

Paul and Silas went on to tell them all about Jesus. Afterwards, the jailer washed their wounds and gave them a meal. He was filled with joy because he and his whole household believed in God.

The next day the order was given to release Paul and Silas. The jailer said to them, 'You may leave now. Go in peace.' So Paul and Silas went to another town, telling people about Jesus and how much God loved them too.'

The Word of the Lord: *Thanks be to God.*

Follow up Questions

Ask the children what dreadful things had happened to Paul and Silas.

Answer: They were seized by the crowd, dragged before the court, whipped and chained up in prison

Ask the children why these things happened? Do they think Paul and Silas were treated fairly?

Answer: Paul and Silas were telling the people about Jesus. They were treated badly and unfairly because people didn't like who they were and what they had to say.

Ask the children how they would feel if they were treated unfairly because of these or similar reasons.

Ask how were Paul and Silas different to other prisoners? Think about their behaviour in prison.

Answer: After all they had been through, most people would have been upset or angry but they remained joyful, forgiving and faithful. They sang hymns and praised God. They did not even try to escape prison after the earthquake. They knew the jailer would get into trouble if they did and wanted to help him.

Follow up Questions

How did the jailer change after meeting Paul and Silas?

Answer: At first he was cruel to Paul and Silas. Then when he thought they had escaped, he became scared. When Paul and Silas remained so that the jailer wouldn't get into trouble, the jailer wanted hear what it was that made Paul and Silas so loving, brave and forgiving. He listened as they told the jailer that Jesus was the reason they acted as they did. By the end of the story the jailer and his household had become followers of Jesus too. The jailer was kinder, gentle and full of joy. He cared for Paul and Silas by washing their wounds and giving them a meal.

Follow up reflection

At the end of today's reading we heard how after he was released from prison, Paul went to another place to tell more people about Jesus and about God's love for us all.

Paul faced many difficulties as he did this. He was often bullied, laughed at, once he was even shipwrecked then bitten by a poisonous snake! Yet he never gave up on his mission to share the love of God and the message of Jesus. Like Saint Paul, today there are some Missionary Priests and Religious Sisters who travel to countries faraway to bring God's love, joy, hope and peace to people who are in need of help. Let's keep them in our prayers today and as we join our hands and open our hearts.

Heavenly Father, you gave St Paul a special mission to tell others about your son, Jesus. Today we share this mission too. Help us to do this joyfully through our encouraging words, loving actions, and faithful prayers. Lord hear us... Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father, St Paul was the first great missionary. Hear our prayers for today's missionaries, sharing your love around the world. Guide them with your Word, fill their hearts with your joy, and strengthen them with your Spirit. Lord hear us...

Heavenly Father, the mission you set St Paul wasn't easy and so he asked other people for help. May we always do the same, understanding as St Paul did, that the world feels your love most especially when we all work together as your family. Lord hear us...

Let us all now say out loud our Mission Together prayer...

May all children

In the world

Share love

Share friendship and live

In the peace of God's love

Now and forever. Amen.





Scripture Reading: Acts 16:16-40 adapted for children from NJRV

Narrator 1: Paul and his friend, Silas, were preaching about Jesus in a town in Greece. One day they were seized by the crowd and dragged before the court. The men in charge ordered them to be whipped and thrown into prison. The jailer chained their feet tightly so that they could not move.

Narrator 2: That night Paul and Silas were in their cell, praising God and singing hymns, when there was such a violent earthquake that the prison was shaken. The prison doors flew open, and their chains came loose. The jailer woke up and he was terrified. He thought Paul and Silas had escaped. But Paul shouted,

Paul: Don't worry. We are still here!

Narrator 1: The jailer rushed in and fell, trembling before Paul and Silas. He brought them out and said,

Jailer: Sirs, What must I do to be saved?

Narrator 1: They replied,

Paul and Silas: Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you, your family and your servants.

Narrator 2: Paul and Silas told them all about Jesus. Afterwards, the jailer washed their wounds and gave them a meal. He was filled with joy because he and his whole household believed in God. The next day the order was given to release Paul and Silas:

Officer: My orders are to release Paul and Silas.

Narrator 2: The jailer said to them,

Jailer: You may leave now. Go in peace.

Narrator 1: So Paul and Silas went to another town, telling people about Jesus and how much God loved them too.

Narrator: The Word of the Lord

Everyone: Thanks be to God

Scripture Exploration Tasks

- Copy and paste the adapted scripture on page 2 (Acts 16:16-40) and ask pupils to annotate the text. Looking out for words that help: picture the scene, capture emotion and feelings, relay important messages e.g. about faithfulness.
- Invite the pupils to retell the scripture as a story, using their own words, and as vividly as they can.
- Remind the children that God speaks to us through the words of scripture. Then ask if any words stood out from the scripture today. What might God be saying to us through these words?



Suggested Activity for KS2 – Sharing God’s message of love

During his many missionaries journeys, St Paul met many people. He encouraged them to join together to read scripture and listen to the words of Jesus. He showed them how to share the Eucharist, invited them to pray together, and encouraged them – as followers of Jesus – to love, forgive and care for others. By doing these things the people became a church Community.

Sometimes St Paul would stay with the people for months. They grew to love him as a teacher and friend. When it was time for him to leave, St Paul promised to write letters to guide and encourage the people. St Paul kept his promise and we still have many of these letters in the Bible (New Testament). They are often read out at mass or in prayer services, because even today, over 2,000 years later, they still encourage followers of Jesus to share God’s love with the world.

A simplified example of one of St Paul’s letters can be found on the next page.

For this activity pupils will need:

- A photocopy of the ancient scroll (on next page)
- Pencils/pens
- **Name of the school’s parish and parish priest.**

Tell the children that today we will follow St Paul’s example by writing a letter to our own parish church community. This letter should encourage the parishioners and remind them of how Jesus asks us to live and how we can build the Church God wants.

- Divide the children into small groups.
- Ask the children to plan the letter together. They should begin by listing what they consider to be the most important lessons Jesus taught his followers e.g. forgiveness, compassion.
- After they have compiled a list (we suggest no more than six), ask the children to write a letter that includes these lessons. They could be inserted into a story or written as action points.
- The children must imagine that they are St Paul writing the letter to the school’s church community. Some time travelling is involved here!
- You may like to have a post box in the classroom for the children to post their letters.
- We suggest, where possible, that the letters are collected by your school’s parish priest and displayed in church.

Appendix Three



To the parish community of _____
and to Fr _____

St Paul's letter to the Colossians 1:1-9

From Paul, an apostle of Jesus, and from Timothy*. To the holy and faithful who live in Colossae.

When we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, we always thank God for you. We thank God because we have heard about the faith you have in Jesus and the love you have for all of God's people.

We ask God that you will learn what it is God wants for you. We pray that you will also have great wisdom and understanding. Then you will live the kind of life that honours and pleases the Lord in every way.

** Timothy was said to be a teenager when he first met St Paul. He became a big help to Paul and an important missionary himself.*